KAGAWA et al
Appl. No. 10/667,483
October 5, 2006

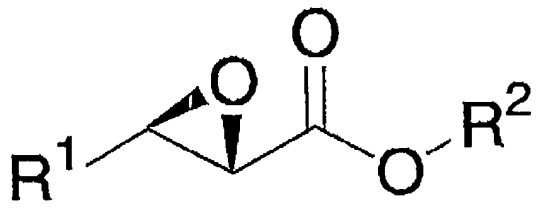
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

NE/I
RJB
10/11/06

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An optically active epoxyester derivative ~~in the (2S,3R) or (2R,3S) form~~ of the following formula (3):



(3)

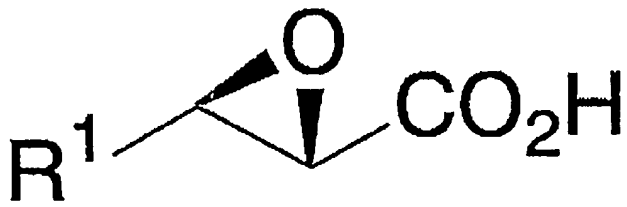
wherein R^1 is a methyl group, an ethyl group or a C_{3-10} branched, linear or cyclic alkyl group, and R^2 is a phenyl group, a substituted phenyl group or a tert-butyl group. wherein the optical conformation of formula (3) is (2S,3R).

10. (Original) The optically active epoxyester derivative according to Claim 9, wherein in the formula (3), R^1 is a cyclohexyl group, an isopropyl group or a n-butyl group.

11. (Original) The optically active epoxyester derivative according to Claim 9, wherein in the formula (3), R^2 is a phenyl group, a 4-methoxyphenyl group or a tert-butyl group.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) A process for producing an optically active (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxypropionic acid derivative having a substituent at the 3-position, of the following formula (4):



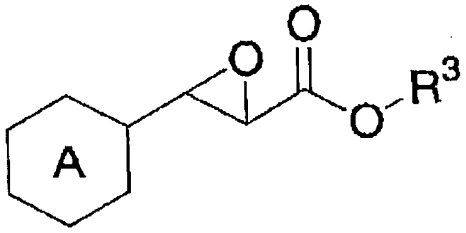
(4)

wherein R^1 is a methyl group, an ethyl group or a C_{3-10} branched, linear or cyclic alkyl group, which process comprises hydrolyzing the optically active epoxyester derivative of the formula (3) as defined in Claim 9.

14. (Withdrawn) The process for producing an optically active (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxypropionic acid derivative according to Claim 13, wherein in the formula (4), R^1 is a cyclohexyl group, an isopropyl group or a n-butyl group.

15.-25. (Canceled).

26. (Withdrawn) A process for producing an optically active 2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid and its ester, which comprises reacting an enzyme having an ability to asymmetrically hydrolyze an ester bond, to a mixture of a (2R,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate and a (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate, of the 2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate of the following formula (7):



(7)

wherein ring A is a cyclohexyl group which may have a substituent, and R^3 is an ester residue, for stereoselective hydrolysis, followed by separation and purification.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Withdrawn) The process for producing an optically active 2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid and its ester according to Claim 26, wherein the enzyme is a lipase or an esterase.

29. (Withdrawn) The process for producing an optically active 2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid and its ester according to Claim 26, wherein an enzyme which selectively hydrolyzes a (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate, is used, whereby from the aqueous phase, a (2R,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid is obtained, and from the organic solvent phase, a (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate is obtained.

30. (Withdrawn) The process for producing an optically active 2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid and its ester according to Claim 26, wherein an enzyme which selectively hydrolyzes a (2R,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate, is used, whereby from the aqueous phase, a (2R,3S)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionic acid is obtained, and from the organic solvent phase, a (2S,3R)-2,3-epoxy-3-cyclohexylpropionate is obtained.